

Arkansas Child and Family Service Review

The Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Children and Family Services participate in a Child and Family Services review that is conducted by the Federal government. States are assessed for compliance with federal requirements for child protective services, foster care, adoption, and family preservation and support services under titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act. The process is to improve outcomes for abused and neglected children, children in foster care, and children awaiting adoption. The process will initiate again with a state wide assessment in 2007 and then the on site review will be conducted in 2008. The on site review will include federal, state, and Arkansas stakeholders as reviewers. Once the on site review is completed, the states are required to develop and implement a Program Improvement Plan (PIP) to address any outcomes of systemic factors determined not to be in substantial conformity in the Child and Family Service review (CFSR) report. Outcomes assessed are safety, permanency and well being.

Outcomes Assessed:

- **Safety Outcome 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect**
 - Item 1: Timeliness of initiating investigations of reports of child maltreatment
 - Item 2: Repeat maltreatment
- **Safety outcome 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate**
 - Item 3: services to family to protect child (ren) in home and prevent removal
 - Item 4: Risk assessment and safety management
- **Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations**
 - Item 5: Foster Care re-entries
 - Item 6: Stability of foster care placement
 - Item 7: Permanency goal for child
 - Item 8: Reunification, guardianship, or permanent placement with relatives
 - Item 9: Adoption
 - Item 10: permanent goal of other planned permanent living arrangement
- **Permanency Outcome 2: The continuity of family relationship and connections is preserved for children**
 - Item 11: Proximity of foster care placement
 - Item 12 Placement with siblings
 - Item 13: Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care
 - Item 14: Preserving connects
 - Item 15: Relative Placement
 - Item 16: Relationship of child in care with parents
- **Child and Family Well Being Outcome 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs**
 - Item 17: Needs and services of child. Parents, foster parents
 - Item 18: Child and family involvement in case planning

- Item 19: Worker visits with child
- Item 20 Worker visits with parents
- **Child and Family Well being Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs**
 - Item 21: Education needs of children
- **Child and Family Well being Outcome 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs**
 - Item 22: Physical health of child
 - Item 23: Mental/behavioral health of the child

Systemic Factors Assessed:

- **Statewide Information System**
 - Item 24: State is operating a statewide information system that, at a minimum, can readily identify the status, demographic characteristics, location, and goals for the placement of every child which is (or within the immediately preceding 12 months, has been) in foster care
- **Case Review**
 - Item 25: Provides a process that ensures that each children has a written case plan to be developed jointly with the children parents that includes the required provisions
 - Item 26: Provides a process for the periodic review of the status of each child no less frequently than once every 6 months, either by court or by administrative review
 - Item 27: provides a process that ensure that each child in foster care under the supervision of the State has a permanency hearing in a qualified court or administrative body no later than 12 months from the date of the child entered foster care and no less frequently than every 12 months thereafter
 - Item 28: provides a process for termination of parents rights proceeding in accordance with the provisions of the Adoption and Safe Families Act
 - Item 29: provides a process for foster parent, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers of children in foster care to be notified of, and have an opportunity to be heard in, any review or hearing held with respect to the child
- **Quality Assurance System**
 - Item 30: The State has developed and implemented standards to ensure that children in foster care are provided with quality services that protect the safety and health of the children
 - Item 31: The State is operating an identifiable quality assurance system that is in place in the jurisdictions where the services included in the CFSP are provided, evaluates the quality of services, identifies strengths and needs of the service delivery system, Provides relevant reports, and evaluates program improvement measures implemented
- **Staff and Provider Training**
 - Item 32: The State is operating a staff development and training program that supports the goals and objectives in the CFSP, address services provided under the titles IV-B and IV-E, and provides initial training for all staff who delivers these services

Item 33: The State provides for ongoing training for staff that addresses the skills and knowledge base needed to carry out their duties with regards to the services included in the CFSP

Item 34: The State provides training for current or prospective foster parents, adoptive parents, and staff of State licensed or approved facilities that care for children receiving foster care or adoption assistance under the title IV-E that addresses the skills and knowledge base needed to carry out their duties with regards to foster and adopted children.

- **Service Array and Resource Development**

Item 35: The State has in place an array of services that assess the strengths and needs of children and families and determine other services needs, address the needs of families in addition to individual children in order to create a safe home environment, enable children to remain safely with their parents when reasonable, and help children in foster and adoptive placement achieve permanency.

Item 36: The services in item 35 are accessible to families and children in all political jurisdiction covered by the State's CFSP

Item 37: The services in item 35 can be individualized to meet the unique needs of children and families served by the agency

- **Agency Responsiveness to the Community**

Item 38: In implementing the provisions of the CFS, the State engages in ongoing consultation with tribal representative, consumers, service providers, foster care providers, the juvenile court, and other public and private child and family service agencies, and includes the major concerns of these representative in the goals and objectives of the CFSP

Item 39: The agency develops, in consultation with these representative, annual reports of progress and services delivered pursuant to the CFSP

Item 40: The States services under the CFSP are coordinated with services or benefits of other Federal or federally assisted programs serving the same population

- **Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention**

Item 41: The state has implemented standards for foster family homes and child care institutions which are reasonably in accord with recommended national standards

Item 42: The standards are applied to all licensed or approved foster family homes or child care institutions receiving title IV-E or IV-B funds

Item 43: The state complies with the Federal requirements for criminal background clearances as related to licensing or approving foster care and adoptive placements and has in place a case planning process that includes provision for addressing the safety of foster care and adoptive placement of children

Item 44: The State has in place a process for ensuring diligent recruitment of potential foster and adoptive families that reflect the ethnic and racial diversity of children in the State for whom foster and adoptive homes are needed

Item 45: The State has in place a process for effective use of cross jurisdictional resources to facilitate timely adoptive or permanent placement for waiting children

Other:

The State wide assessment will include many ways of assessing our performance and obtain stakeholder feedback and participation that may include but is not limited to: surveys; focus groups; case reviews; assessment of data report; and feedback from various committees such as Advisory Board.

Many of you probably participated in the CFSR process in 2001. In many ways, this process will be the same, but there are some changes in the review instrument used and will include composite scores to assess performance for the above areas.

For more information about the CFSR process, the following link is provided:

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwmonitoring/index.htm#cfsr>

For Information about the 2001 CFSR results and planning in Arkansas, the following link is provided:

<http://www.arkansas.gov/dhhs/chilnfam/cfsfr.htm>